



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

KIRT REPP DC
PO BOX 9973
THE WOODLANDS TX 77387

Respondent Name

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-13-1703-01

MFDR Date Received

MARCH 5, 2013

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "The EOB stated 'The time limit for filing has expired.' Our DOS was 03-05-2012 and the time frame for filing reconsideration, at that time, was 11 months from the DOS. Our reconsideration was filed on 02-01-2013 via carrier verified fax number with confirmation. That is well within the 11 month parameter. The initial denial rationale was rendered void as we showed proof of ODG 'Recommend' status for both 'EMG' and 'NCS' according to the appropriate ODG 'Pain' chapter as per our reconsideration discussion dated 02-01-2013."

Amount in Dispute: \$4,055.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "It is beyond the scope of practice for a chiropractor to perform a needle EMG. Insofar as the requestor is seeking reimbursement for that treatment, reimbursement is denied."

Response Submitted By: Flahive, Ogden & Latson

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
March 5, 2012	CPT Code 95860	\$375.00	\$0.00
	CPT Code 95934-50	\$250.00	\$99.61
	CPT Code 95903 (X4)	\$295.00/ea	\$486.17
	CPT Code 95904 (X10)	\$225.00/ea	\$918.37
TOTAL		\$4,055.00	\$1,504.15

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. Texas Labor Code, Section §408.027(a) effective September 1, 2007, requires health care providers to submit the medical bill within 95 days.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.250, effective May 2, 2006, 31 *Texas Register* 3544, provides a timeline for submitting a request for reconsideration of medical bill.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §137.100, effective January 18, 2007, 32 *Texas Register* 163, governs the use of the treatment guidelines.
4. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
5. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.600, effective May 2, 2006, 31 *Texas Register* 3566, requires preauthorization for specific healthcare procedures and services.
6. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203, effective March 1, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 364, sets the reimbursement guidelines for the disputed service.
7. 22 Texas Administrative Code §75, effective December 24, 2009, 34 *Texas Register* 9208, sets out the scope of practice for chiropractors.
8. District Court of Travis County, 250th Judicial District No. D-1-N-GN-06-003451, Honorable Stephen Yelenosky, Judge Presiding, Order on cross-motions for partial summary judgment dated November 24, 2009.
9. Texas Court of Appeals, Third District at Austin, NO. 03-10-00673-CV, Opinion dated April 5, 2012.
10. Texas Court of Appeals, Third District at Austin, NO. 03-10-00673-CV, Mandate dated August 8, 2013.
11. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:

Explanation of benefits

- 197-Payment denied/reduced for absence of precertification/authorization.
- 29-The time limit for filing has expired.
- 193-Original payment decision is being maintained. This claim was processed properly the first time.
- 193/29-Per TDI/DWC rule 133.250(b) The health care provider shall submit the request for reconsideration no later than ten months from the date of service.

Litigation Background for Needle EMG and MUA

Portions of the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners rules of practice were challenged by the Texas Medical Association and the Texas Medical Board in 2009. At issue was whether 22 Texas Administrative Code §75.17(a)(3), (c)(2)(D), (c)(3)(A), and (e)(2)(O) were within the scope of chiropractic practice in Texas. Specifically, the parties sought judgment on whether rules allowing Chiropractors to perform needle electromyography (EMG) and manipulation under anesthesia (MUA) were valid. On November 24, 2009, the 345th District Court issued a judgment in which presiding judge Honorable Stephen Yelenosky concluded that needle EMG and MUA exceeded the statutory scope of chiropractic practice in Texas. The Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners appealed the district court's judgment to the Texas Court of Appeals, Third District. The Texas Court of Appeals in *Tex. Bd. Of Chiropractic Examiners v. Tex. Med. Ass'n.*, 375 S.W.3d 464 (Tex. App. – Austin, 2012, pet. den.) issued an opinion affirming the district court's judgment, and concluding that needle EMG and MUA services are not within the chiropractic scope-of-practice. The Chiropractic Board exhausted its appeals and on August 8, 2013, the mandate affirming the district court's judgment was issued. The mandate states "...we affirm the remainder of the district court's judgment that subparts 75.17(a)(3), (c)(2)(D), (c)(3)(A), and (e)(2)(O) of the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners' scope-of-practice rule are void." In accordance with the Texas Court of Appeals opinion, the final mandate, and the scope of chiropractic practice requirement in 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203(a)(6), needle EMG and MUA services may not be reimbursed.

Issues

1. Did the requestor submit documentation to support the disputed bills were submitted timely in accordance with Texas Labor Code §408.027(a)?
2. Was the request for reconsideration timely filed in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.250(b)?
3. Is the rendering provider eligible to perform needle electromyography?
4. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement for the office visit?
5. Is the rendering provider eligible to perform nerve conduction tests?
6. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement for CPT code 95934, 95903, and 95904?

Findings

1. Texas Labor Code §408.027(a) states “A health care provider shall submit a claim for payment to the insurance carrier not later than the 95th day after the date on which the health care services are provided to the injured employee. Failure by the health care provider to timely submit a claim for payment constitutes a forfeiture of the provider's right to reimbursement for that claim for payment.”

The respondent submitted a copy of an explanation of benefits report dated April 16, 2012 that supports position that respondent received medical bill timely in accordance with Texas Labor Code §408.027(a).

2. According to the submitted explanation of benefits, the respondent denied reimbursement for the disputed services based upon reason codes “193/29.”

28 Texas Administrative Code §133.250(b) states “The health care provider shall submit the request for reconsideration no later than eleven months from the date of service.”

The requestor submitted a copy of a facsimile report dated February 1, 2013, requesting reconsideration. This date is within the timeframe required by 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.250(b). The Division finds that the respondent has not supported the denial of reason codes “193/29.”

3. CPT code 95860 is defined as “Needle electromyography; 1 extremity with or without related paraspinal areas.” According to the medical documentation found, this service was performed by Kirt Repp, D.C. (Doctor of Chiropractic). The Texas Court of Appeals in *Tex. Bd. Of Chiropractic Examiners v. Tex. Med. Ass'n.*, 375 S.W.3d 464 (Tex. App. – Austin, 2012, pet. den.) issued an opinion affirming the district court's judgment, and concluding that needle EMG and MUA services are not within the chiropractic scope-of-practice of chiropractors. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203(a)(6) states “Notwithstanding Medicare payment policies, chiropractors may be reimbursed for services provided within the scope of their practice act.” The division finds that disputed service code 95860 is not within the scope of chiropractic practice because it is an electro-diagnostic test that involves the insertion of a needle into the patient. Therefore, no reimbursement can be recommended for CPT code 95860 pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203(a)(6).
4. Disputed services 95903, 95904, and 95934 fall in the category of nerve conduction tests under applicable AMA current procedural terminology (CPT). These tests involve placing a stimulating electrode directly over the nerve to be tested. These are surface tests that do not involve needles. According to the medical documentation found, these services were performed by Kirt Repp, D.C. (Doctor of Chiropractic). As stated in the Texas Court of Appeals, Third District at Austin, NO. 03-10-00673-CV, Opinion dated April 5, 2012

In the second provision, paragraph(c)(3)(A), TBCE imposed certification and supervision requirements on any licenses who administered “electro-neuro diagnostic testing” that varied according to whether the testing was “surface (non-needle)” or involved the use of needles. The import or effect of paragraphs (c)(2)(D) and (c)(3)(A), as the parties agree, was that chiropractors with specified training and certification could utilize needle EMG in evaluating or examining patients. In their live petitions and summary-judgment motions, the Physician Parties challenged the validity of the two rule provisions **specifically addressing needle EMG** [emphasis added]- 75.17(c)(2)(D) and (c)(3)(A) – plus the general standard regarding use of needles-75.17(a)(3).”

That is, surface tests were not in question during this suit. Pursuant to §75.17(c)(3)(A) effective December 24, 2009, 34 *Texas Register* 9208, services 95903, 95904, and 95934 are within the scope of chiropractic practice because they are surface tests.

5. Because these studies, CPT codes 95934, 95903, and 95904, are within the scope of chiropractic practice reimbursement is recommended in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203(c).

Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203(c)(1)(2), “To determine the MAR for professional services, system participants shall apply the Medicare payment policies with minimal modifications.

(1) For service categories of Evaluation & Management, General Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Radiology, Pathology, Anesthesia, and Surgery when performed in an office setting, the established conversion factor to be applied is \$52.83. For Surgery when performed in a facility setting, the established conversion factor to be applied is \$66.32.

(2) The conversion factors listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be the conversion factors for calendar year 2008. Subsequent year's conversion factors shall be determined by applying the annual percentage adjustment of the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) to the previous year's conversion factors, and shall be effective January 1st of the new calendar year. The following hypothetical example illustrates this annual adjustment activity if the Division had been using this MEI annual percentage adjustment: The 2006 Division conversion factor of \$50.83 (with the exception of surgery) would have been multiplied by the 2007 MEI annual percentage increase of 2.1 percent, resulting in the \$51.90 (with the exception of surgery) Division conversion factor in 2007.”

To determine the MAR the following formula is used: (DWC Conversion Factor/Medicare Conversion Factor) X Participating Amount = Maximum Allowable Reimbursement (MAR).

The 2012 DWC conversion factor for this service is 54.86.

The Medicare Conversion Factor is 34.0376

Review of Box 32 on the CMS-1500 the services were rendered in zip code 77076, which is located in Houston, Texas. Therefore, the Medicare participating amount will be based on the reimbursement for Houston, Texas.

Using the above formula, the Division finds the following:

Code	Calculation for Locality 0440218 Houston	Maximum Allowable
95903	$(54.86/34.0376) \times \$75.41$ for 4 Units	\$486.17
95904	$(54.86/34.0376) \times \$56.98$ for 10 Units	\$918.37
95934	$(54.86/34.0376) \times \$61.80$ for 1 Unit	\$99.61
		\$1,504.15

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has established that reimbursement is due for the specified services. As a result, the amount ordered is \$1,504.15.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code Sections 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute. The Division hereby **ORDERS** the respondent to remit to the requestor the amount of \$1,504.15 plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this Order.

Authorized Signature

_____ Signature	_____ Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	9/16/2013 Date
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YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, effective May 31, 2012, 37 *Texas Register* 3833, **applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.**

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the Division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the Division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.